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Mr. *BURNETT's*

LETTER

TO THE

Earl of *Hallifax.*

THE NECESSITY OF Impeaching THE LATE MINISTRY.

In a LETTER to the Earl of *Halliſax*.

By THOMAS BURNETT, *Eſq;*

The Third Edition.

And at the Head of this Angelick Band,
Lo! how the goodly Prince at laſt does ſtand,
(Oh Righteous God) on his own happy Land.
'Tis happy now, which could with ſo much Eaſe
Recover from ſo deſperate a Diſeaſe,
A various complicated Ill,
Whoſe every Symptom was enough to kill,
While One in Three Frenzy poſſeſt,
And Lethargy the Reſt. COWLEY.

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THE
NECESSITY
OF
Impeaching
THE
MINISTRY.
In a LETTER to the
Earl of [illegible].

By THOMAS [illegible], Esq;

A

LETTER, &c.

My Lord,

AFTER having openly declared against the late Miniſtry, even when their Hands were ſtrengthen'd with Power to intimidate thoſe, who were not animated with a more than ordinary Zeal for our Conſtitution, I believe you will not be much ſurpris'd now at my aſſuring your Lordſhip, that I ſtill continue firm in my former Opinion, that they deſerve to be exalted to the *higheſt Poſts* in the Nation.

And I have the rather preſumed to addreſs my ſelf to your Lordſhip after this Manner, becauſe I am well ſatisfy'd, that it is our preſent Happineſs to be govern'd by a Monarch, who has not fail'd

to

to pay a due Regard to your great Services and Abilities.

I know, my Lord, and indeed I know it with Indignation, that ſome of your Enemies (and it's hard to diſtinguiſh them from thoſe of your Country) have been induſtrious in repreſenting you as a Favourer of thoſe Men, whom through the whole Courſe of your Life, in both Houſes of Parliament, you have been famous for oppoſing. Theſe are idle Rumours, which your Lordſhip's late Diſcovery of the Abuſes committed in *Chelſea* College does ſufficiently refute; and if we were to trace them, I doubt not but we ſhould find that they were ſpread about by thoſe Men, whoſe Game for this twenty five Years paſt, has been to create Diviſions amongſt the true Friends of this Nation.

My Lord, As no honeſt *Briton* could forbear even from Tranſports of Joy upon his Majeſty's happy Settlement in theſe Kingdoms, ſo no true Lover of his Country but would be glad, even at the Expence of his Blood, to purchaſe to us the Continuance of ſuch an ineſtimable Bleſſing. And in this, I am ſure, none would be more ready than ſuch as your Lordſhip,

and

and the other Men of Eminence and Figure, who by their Employments are happily ſituated ſo near the Perſon of their Sovereign, as to have daily Opportunities of diſcovering in Him thoſe excellent Qualities, which declare him worthy of the Crown he wears.

Now you cannot by any one Action more effectually ſecure to your ſelves the Poſſeſſion of that Great Prince, or the Hearts of your Fellow-Subjects, than by puniſhing thoſe who have ſhewn themſelves Enemies to the Title of the One, and to the Proſperity of the Other. You can never hope to plead a greater Merit to King *GEORGE*, than the calling thoſe to an Account, who would have diſpoſed of his Inheritance to another; nor can you teſtify your Affection to this Nation by any more evident Token, than the arraigning of thoſe, who have betray'd and oppreſs'd it.

My Lord, You ſee what Riots and what Tumults have been rais'd in many Parts of this Iſland, particularly on Days ſet apart for publick Joy on the happy Acceſſion of our good King; and you cannot but have obſerved what inſolent and ſeditious

ditious Libels have been diſpers'd abroad, highly reflecting both upon Him and his Government, by thoſe whom its Lenity has encourag'd. Now, were the Heads of this FACTION ſeis'd, were there a certain Appearance of their being brought to anſwer for theſe Crimes, for which no Puniſhment could be too rigorous, the Spirits of the whole Party would droop, and our glorious Monarch might promiſe himſelf a peaceable Enjoyment of the *Britiſh* Throne all the reſt of his Days. But if, on the contrary, the Actions of theſe Traitors are ſlurr'd over in Silence, it will but ſerve for an Encouragement to them in their Inſolence; and *Jacobitiſm*, which of late Years has been in too flouriſhing a Condition, will now again take ſuch Root, as may probably give this Reign no leſs Diſturbance, than it did to that of the Great King *William*.

Give me Leave, my Lord, for once to inform your Lordſhip of Things which you are much better acquainted with than my ſelf, and to lay before you the Accuſations charg'd upon the late Miniſtry whilſt they ſate at the Helm, moſt of which I am perſuaded are capable of being prov'd againſt them now. The Catalogue of them

will

will be ſo great, and every Particular of it ſo black, as will doubtleſs loudly call for an Impeachment.

To begin then. We were told, my Lord, upon the very firſt Entrance of theſe Men into Buſineſs, that they ſettled a Correſpondence with *France*, by negotiating clandeſtine Articles of Peace; which, tho' they were of the greateſt Importance, were wholly truſted to the Management of two inconſiderable Upſtarts, who whilſt they were betraying the Intereſt of their Nation, had in it themſelves no Property to looſe: Nor could we in Juſtice expect a better Behaviour, when the Chief of the Miniſtry, whoſe Servant was hang'd for keeping a treaſonable Intelligence with *Verſailles*, had himſelf appear'd to be no Stranger to that Court. We were told, that notwithſtanding one of the Articles of the Grand Alliance in expreſs Terms requires, That no Treaty of Peace ſhall ſo much as be ſet on Foot by any one of the Allies without the Knowledge and Conſent of all the reſt, yet that theſe Negotiations had been carry'd on for many Months, and even brought to a Concluſion, before any one of the Confederates were made privy to the leaſt Step in them; and to ſtrengthen this, if

we compare the Preliminaries which Count *Gallas* publiſh'd, (and the Government at that Time deny'd) with the Articles of Peace agreed on at *Utrecht*, we ſhall find but little Difference between them. We were told, my Lord, that this Peace was no leſs ſcandalous in its Nature, than in the Methods by which it was obtain'd; and that by it the Whole which we had for the Courſe of ſo many Years been fighting for, was at once abandoned to the Enemy, and that, even at a time when we were in a condition of demanding our own Terms, which *France* durſt not then have deny'd us. We were told, that before his Grace the Duke of *O*—— produced thoſe execrable Orders for not Fighting, he had given the *Dutch* and the Emperor's Miniſters all poſſible Aſſurances, that he would act in concert with them, by which means he was admitted into a great part of the Secrets of their Meaſures that Campaign. We were told, that when that unhappy General withdrew from the Scene of Action with his Troops to *Ghent*, that if the Forces in the Confederate Camp, then under the Pay of *Great-Britain*, had liſtned to the Propoſals he was commanded to make them, and had follow'd him in his Retreat, the whole Army of the Allies muſt

muſt have been at the Mercy of the Enemy. We were told, that by this ſhameful Peace, which contrary to the Grand Alliance gave up *Spain* and the *Weſt-Indies* to a Prince of the Houſe of *Bourbon*, our Trade would be reduc'd to a Trifle, and *Portugal* and *Brazil* with all its inexhauſtible Mines, would ſoon fall into the Hands of the Univerſal Monarch *Lewis*; ſo that in a ſhort time, poor *England* would have no ſhare in the Gold of *America*, but what came over to bribe her *Miniſters*. We were told, that the Fiſhery, which by the Treaty of Peace is permitted to the *French* upon the Coaſts of *Newfoundland*, was directly contrary to an Act of Parliament made in the Reign of King *William*, in order to prevent all Strangers from Fiſhing in thoſe Parts. We were told, that the Brave and Generous *Catalans* (who had receiv'd under her Majeſty's Hand, many repeated Aſſurances, that ſhe wou'd procure for them all their Ancient Privileges) were baſely Deſerted and Abandon'd, to be made a Sacrifice to the Reſentment of *Philip*, when the bare Interceſſion of our Miniſtry might have ſecured them: But they were too great Lovers of Slavery to befriend ſuch glorious Aſſerters of Liberty! We were told, that though our Stateſmen

here at Home, amus'd us with idle hopes of having *Dunkirk demoliſh'd*, yet that by private Agreements, that was not to be effected, till ſuch time as the King of *France* ſhould have provided himſelf with a much better Port upon the ſame Coaſt, and that the Equivalent for this trifling Conceſſion, was no leſs than the Treaty of Commerce. But I ſhall omit the many Reflections, that we were told might be made upon this *Felonious Treaty*, ſince the Scandalouſneſs of it cannot more evidently be made appear from any one Circumſtance, than that the worſt Parliament which ever ſat in this Iſland, could not be brought to digeſt it. We were told, that our Miniſtry paid Penſions to ſeditious Highlanders, that openly avowed the Pretender's Cauſe; and that they fail'd not of uſing their utmoſt Endeavours (how they ſucceeded I need not ſay) to procure as many Repreſentatives of the Peerage in *Scotland*, that favoured the *Jacobite* Intereſt, as was poſſible. We were told of frequent Diſcoveries of a Correſpondence with St. *Germains* firſt, and afterwards with *Lorrain*; and that when a certain Viſcount made a Voyage into *France*, to receive the Bounty of his Country's Enemies, he did not return to his native Land, without paying firſt his Duty to his vagrant Maſter.

Maſter. We were told, that the voluptuous Secretary had drove with ſo much Expedition, that all things were almoſt ripe for an Invaſion, and that the Pretender would not have been abſent long from this Nation, had not the unforeſeen Accident of the Queen's Death prevented all their Deſigns, and rendered all their Schemes abortive. We were every Day alarmed with the News of Outlaw'd Papiſts and Nonjurers, that were even admitted into the Palace at St. *James*'s, and heard of nothing but *Prieſts* and *Abbots* that were employ'd to negotiate our Deſtruction, by a Miniſtry that could pretend to have no Friends, but the Enemies of *Great-Britain*. In ſhort, every Day we were told of ſome new Step that theſe great Men had taken towards our Ruin, and were well aſſured that their very Quarrels were the reſult of a Jealouſy the reſt had conceived of their Chief, as if he was not making haſte enough to compleat our Miſery. To ſum up all in one Word, we were told by the eminenteſt Patriots, and particularly by your Lordſhip, (who never yet appear'd backward in attacking the Foes of your Country) that it might ſoon be made evident, how our Nation and its Liberties were ſold and betrayed to a foreign Prince, how our poor Queen was deluded

deluded and lull'd asleep by an artful Train of Lies, and how the publick Treasure was squandered away in the vilest and most profuse manner; some of it being employed in buying that very Peace, which was our undoing, while a few Statesmen were enriching themselves with the Remainder, or paying their Underlings with it, for the Drudgery of acting against their Conscience. I had like to have omitted the barbarous Usage that the Protestant Commons of *Ireland* met with, when for their Zeal for the Cause of Liberty they were very near being massacred by the Papists, who always proved hearty Friends to the late Wretches in Power, and proper Tools for their scandalous Agent in that Country.

This, my Lord, was the Charge brought against the late Ministry, not only in Print, but also in both the Houses of Parliament; and this, I am sure, my Lord, you will acknowledge the Men now at the Helm are bound in Honour and Conscience to make good against them, as far as Proofs can be produced. And truly, if the Publick has been thus imposed upon by usurping Statesmen, as I make no doubt it has, none but an Enemy to his Country, who would be glad to see it under such a Management again, can

can conſent to let them eſcape unpuniſhed. For ſhould Men, who have thus baſely conducted themſelves, while they were in Power, be allowed to go unqueſtioned, what remains but for every ſucceeding Miniſter, who has more Ability than Conſcience, to follow their Example, and thrive by the Deſtruction of the Nation? There can no Motive, no Argument be made uſe of for the future, in order to puniſh evil Counſellors, but what may much more ſtrenuouſly be urged in the preſent Caſe. And ſhould the late Miniſtry, by an impardonable Indulgence be forgiven, and ſhould all their Attempts, to ruin the beſt Conſtitution in the World, be paſt over in ſilence, it would remain as a ſtanding Invitation in Hiſtory to all the Favourites of a Court, (when they knew they had a weak Monarch to deal with) to become Traitors to him, without fear of receiving any other Reward for it, than a Pardon. For, what Crimes ſo heinous, or what Treachery ſo deteſtable can our Poſterity be guilty of, that will not be warranted by the Behaviour of the late Men in Power, if that be once allowed as a good Precedent?

But, my Lord, to touch upon the tendereſt Point, and what I know lays neareſt your

your Lordſhip's Heart, I mean the contemptible Figure we have of late Years made abroad. What can we ſay more effectual to convince our honeſt Confederates, that it was not the *Britiſh* Nation, but a handful of baſe ill-deſigning Men, then in Places, that treacherouſly abandoned them, than that the Legiſlature of this Kingdom have now executed Juſtice on thoſe very Miniſters? The Emperor, whom they firſt treated with the higheſt Contempt, and then ſcandalouſly deſerted; the *Dutch*, whom they compell'd, or rather bully'd into Terms almoſt as diſadvantageous as their own; the *Engliſh* Nation, whom they ſo ſhamefully impoſed upon and ſet to ſale; the *Duke* of *Marlborough*, whom they obliged to forſake that native Land, which his Arms had ſo gloriouſly preſerved; but above all, the Brave, the Noble-minded, but alas! the now conquer'd *Catalans*, call upon you for ſpeedy Vengeance on theſe Wretches. And on the other Hand, there does not appear to be ſo much as one ſingle honeſt, good or generous Action during their whole Reign, that might plead in their behalf -- No not one!

What then can be urged againſt the Impeachment of ſuch a Set of Men?

I am well aware, my Lord, that ſome very cautious Men, at leaſt ſome who will make Caution their Pretence, may think it impolitick, if not unſafe, for a King, but newly ſettled on the Throne, to begin with Executions, and with ſhedding the Blood of his Subjects. But when by the Trial of theſe Men, it ſhall appear, that they only ſuffer for oppreſſing the Nation, it will knit the Hearts of all honeſt *Britons* more ſtrongly to their Monarch, who thus nobly revenges their Wrongs. And indeed the very Act of Settlement, as if it had foreſeen the bad Miniſters we were likely to have, as well as the Clemency natural to our new King, has put it out of his Power to be gentle to the Enemies of his Country, by making his Pardon no Bar to a Parliamentary Impeachment. So that it is not his acting in, but meerly countenancing the Proſecution of ſuch Men that is deſired; and when he has ſhewn his Reſentment in ſo juſt a manner againſt his moſt profeſs'd Enemies, it will intimidate the reſt from daring to appear ſo. It was the want of doing Juſtice on the Oppreſſors of this Nation at the late Glorious Revolution, that gave Heart to the deſponding *Jacobites*, and made the Reign of King *William* a

Scene of Diſorder and Confuſion, and to that was owing the oppoſition he met with in all his Meaſures. For believe me, the whole Party of Paſſive Gentlemen are only to be reſtrain'd while the Rod hangs over their Heads, and never yet afforded Trouble to any, but thoſe who were ill enough adviſ'd to uſe them well. But I am perſuaded, I need not at this time of Day, inform your Lordſhip, that the *Jacobites* are a Set of Men, whom no Kindneſſes can win over, and whom gentle Treatment but ſerves to make Inſolent. The only Method by which we can hope to get rid of them, muſt be by cruſhing the whole Neſt at a Blow. Nor can I perceive that they could with any Juſtice complain of it, as a Hardſhip done to them, ſhould the Wiſdom of our Legiſlature find it neceſſary to command them to diſpoſe of their Lands in this Nation, and remove their Perſons, together with their Effects, into ſome other Country, whoſe Conſtitution they could be better Friends to. For what can be more abſurd, than for us to permit a Sect to live amongſt us, who muſt of courſe keep a conſtant Correſpondence with our Enemies, and who can propoſe to themſelves no Happineſs or Security ſo great as the Subverſion of this preſent Government.

This

This is a ridiculous Easineſs and Lenity, that is not known to any other Nation or Eſtabliſhment in *Europe* beſides; but I ſhall have occaſion to ſay more of this another Time.

To return then to my former Subject: There are others who ſeem to doubt, Whether the Late Miniſtry are oblig'd by Law to anſwer for Crimes, which they acted under the Queen's Name and with her Warrant. But the Happineſs of our Conſtitution is, that all the Executors of a Sovereign's Illegal Orders, from a Plenipotentiary down to a Conſtable, are anſwerable for their very Execution of them. And any Man who will but conſider the ancient Maxim, that *the King can do no Wrong*, will find the only Reaſon upon which that Maxim is founded, to be becauſe the Monarch's Counſellors are anſwerable for all his Actions. Upon this account, in many Paſſages of our Hiſtorians, we find the Barons of *England* riſing up in Arms to aſſert this undoubted Right of theirs, to puniſh the Oppreſſions of Court-Favourites. And we often find theſe Barons (who were not then made by the Dozen) removing bad Miniſters from the Perſons of their Sovereigns, and puniſhing ſome of them with

Baniſhment, and others of them with Death. For brevity ſake, I ſhall refer your Lordſhip to the Reigns of King *Edward* the Second and King *Richard* the Second, who being both of them but weak Princes, had their Councils frequently weeded by Parliamentary Impeachments. After this I believe no one will pretend to affirm, that the Late Miniſtry may not be brought to a Tryal, for their illegal Management during the Reign of our deceas'd Sovereign, without the leaſt ſtretch of Law.

And indeed, my Lord, it ſeems prepoſterous, that a poor hungry Wretch ſhould be hang'd for Robbing on the Highway, and a Lord Treaſurer that has pillag'd a whole Nation, ſhould be left at Liberty to enjoy the Spoils of it. Should a pittiful Attorney but forge a Common Deed, he would ſoon be Pillory'd for his Villany, and ſhall a Lord Chancellor, that has affix'd the Great Seal of a Kingdom to a Peace that is contrary to the Laws of that very Kingdom, fail of being call'd to an Account for it? Or what can appear more ridiculous, than that an inferiour Clerk in an Office ſhould be put to Death, for diſcovering one ſingle Project of a Miniſtry

to

to a Foreign Prince, and that a Principal Secretary of State, who went over into an Enemy's Country, to discover the whole Projects of another Ministry, should pass unpunish'd?

If this were to be the Method of distributing Justice, if this were to be the partial Procedure of a Government, it would be a just Encouragement to every Officer, that was employ'd in the Publick Business, to endeavour to avoid being in the Rank with common Villains, who by this means would be the only Persons in Danger. But alas! where am I running? Or why do I imagine that the Late Ministry can fail of an Impeachment, when every Circumstance of their Conduct speaks so loudly for it, and most of all their late Behaviour, which has been no less than a Defiance to their King, whilst he is seated on his Throne.

Give me leave, my Lord, to rouse your just Indignation against them, by laying before you a short Sketch of their Conduct, ever since Her Late Majesty's Decease.

You

You may remember, my Lord, with what Impudence they pretended to have as great a Share in the Good Will of our preſent Monarch, as any of thoſe, who had even ventur'd their All to ſerve him. And when, at his happy Arrival, he falſify'd all thoſe Rumours, by the Choice of an honeſt and vigilant Miniſtry, you have ſeen with what Malice they have ever ſince endeavour'd to blacken their Characters, and render them odious to the People; firſt by ſpreading Reports, as if they intended to engage our Nation in a New War, and then by accuſing them of a Deſign to Tax the Funds, and by it ruin the Publick Credit, which begins now again to flouriſh. Nor did their Inveteracy ſtop here, for in their inſolent and ſcandalous Libels, they ſpared not even the King and his whole Royal Family. I might here quote to you ſome Paſſages in that Traiterous Pamphlet, intitl'd, Engliſh *Advice to the Freeholders of* England, that would ſufficiently evince this Matter; and I might at the ſame time demonſtrate to your Lordſhip, how falſe and groundleſs all the Aſſertions there made, are; but beſides that ſuch an Undertaking wou'd ſwell my Letter into much too great a Bulk, it wou'd

wou'd likewiſe ſpread that Scandal, which I think, can meet with no better Anſwer than from the Sentence of a Court of Juſtice.

And now, my Lord, I leave you to judge, if this Deportment does in any manner merit the Indulgence of the Court for paſt Offences. Does it in any wiſe look like the Behaviour of Men that would deſire a Pardon, or indeed accept of one, although it ſhould be offer'd to them? No! It rather looks like that of Enemies that have thrown away the Scabbard, and fancy themſelves ſecure of a Foreign Army to back them.

But to proceed: My Lord, when the late Earl of *Godolphin* and the reſt of his Aſſociates, were worm'd out of their Imployments by theſe undermining Wretches, was not almoſt every Pamphlet and every *Examiner* full of ſcandalous Reflections upon them, as having been guilty of Male-Adminiſtration? Were they not then accus'd of having privately agreed with the *Dutch* and the Emperor, to eaſe them of their Share in the War, by throwing far the greateſt Weight of it upon this Nation? Was not the Duke of *Marl-*

borough

borough charg'd with a Deſign of making himſelf General for Life, and were we not aſſured that he had prolonged the War, only on purpoſe to continue his own great Revenue, which muſt have ſunk by a Peace? And at length did not the Houſe of Commons Vote Thirty Five Millions of the Publick Treaſure to remain unaccounted for? Did they not in their Repreſentation declare, that the Allies had not any of them furniſh'd out their reſpective Quota's, but that the Burthen of the War, almoſt wholly lay upon this Kingdom? Did they not afterwards paſs another Vote upon the Duke of *Marlborough*, as having filled his own Coffers with the Bread Money, which he had exacted out of the Soldiers Allowance, and did they not Addreſs Her Majeſty to proſecute him for the aforeſaid Money? Did they not Vote my Lord *Townſhend* to be an Enemy to his Country, for having Sign'd the Barrier Treaty, that noble (and indeed only) Guarantee of the Proteſtant Succeſſion? And was not Mr. *Walpole* ſent by them to the Tower, upon pretence that he had taken a Bribe from thoſe who were contracting with the Government for the Supply of part of the Forces?

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That theſe things were charg'd upon the Whig Miniſtry, and however notoriouſly falſe in themſelves, were found true by a Houſe of Commons at that time, no Man can deny.

And ptay, my Lord, what was the Anſwer then given by thoſe worthy Gentlemen to all theſe Accuſations? A very juſt one indeed——That had half the Crimes that they were Condemn'd for, been capable of being prov'd againſt them, there would have been ample Matter for their Impeachment; but that not being ſo much as attempted to be ſet on Foot againſt them, the World might depend upon it, that their Crimes were only imaginary, and that the Ground of their being diſcarded, was the Ambition that other Men had to ſucceed into their Places. At the ſame time they appeal'd to the whole Nation, if by any one Step of their Management, the Men in Power ſhewed an inclination to ſpare them, when they had them in their Hands.

This Anſwer, my Lord, ſatisfy'd the Honeſt and Underſtanding part of the Country, that the Duke of *Marlborough*,

my Lord *Godolphin* and the reſt of that Glorious Miniſtry were Innocent, and that the Reports ſpread about of them were no better than Lies, inven ed by the Malice of their Adverſaries. And this is an Anſwer, my Lord, which they may retort upon your ſelves, ſhould they eſcape a Proſecution now.

For, may they not with Juſtice ſay, that if the Quarter of what was laid to their Charge while they continu'd at the Helm, were capable of being now made out againſt them, they would be liable to an Impeachment even for High Treaſon? May they not with Juſtice appeal to the People of *England*, if the preſent Great Men have by any part of their Behaviour diſcover'd a readineſs to forgive them, when it was in their power to puniſh them?

Upon theſe Conſiderations, my Lord, they may eaſily inſinuate to the Ignorant part of the Country (who are the only Perſons they can ever have an Intereſt with) that their Accuſations have only been the Pretences of thoſe who now are poſſeſt of their Places; and then they may

may put their Affairs in a much more favourable Light.

Then they may pretend to their Fellow-Subjects, that they have deliver'd them from the dire Calamities of a Land conſuming War, and in the ſtead of it, put them in a condition of enjoying the bleſſed Fruits of Peace.

Then they may pretend, that they are ſo far from having the leaſt apprehenſions of an Impeachment, that they are ſatisfy'd no Perſons have a higher Claim to the preſent King's Favour and Affection.

Then they may pretend, that had they not concluded the Peace, and by it ſecur'd the Grand Monarch to be our faſt Friend and honeſt Ally, who knows but he might have diſturbed, if not totally prevented King *George*'s Arrival to theſe his Dominions; for had he not been in Peace with us at the inſtant of the Queen's Demiſe, he would in all probability have lent the Pretender that Aſſiſtance, which we know upon this occaſion he deny'd him.

They may then pretend, that as they had eas'd their Country of half the Load of the Land Tax, ſo they would have freed them from every other Burthen, had their Sovereign thought fit to have made uſe of them in the Direction of his Affairs.

Now, my Lord, although every one of theſe Articles are falſe, although our preſent Peace has conſumed us more than a War, and although the *French* King's refuſing Aid to the Pretender, was more owing to his Diſability, than Religious Obſervance of his Treaties: Yet theſe are ſuch ſpecious pretences of Merit, as the late Miniſtry may with great ſucceſs, amuſe the Country with. And all this joyn'd with that empty but prevailing Cry of the Danger of the Church, may in time gather ſuch a Head in the Kingdom, and occaſion ſuch an oppoſition to the Meaſures of our preſent Great Stateſmen, as may oblige King *George*, as well as it did King *William*, to make uſe of a deſtructive *Tory* Miniſtry. Nothing but an Impeachment can all at once deſtroy the Intereſt theſe Men have with the Mob, who then may

may be brought to consider, what Devils they have Worshipped.

To put this Argument then in the clearest, as well as in the strongest Light: Not only the Honour of our Sovereign, which is a great and noble Motive; not only the Justice due to our abused Country, which is an Incitement of equal Weight, but even the Security of our whole Constitution for the future, demands the speedy Impeachment of the late Ministry.

Should the People once be brought to believe, that all the Talk of our present Statesmen's Zeal for the Safety of this Nation, for the Ballance of Power in *Europe*, for the preservation of our Trade, and of what is infinitely dearer, our Liberties, was only a Cant to bring them again into Play, who wou'd stir over the Threshold once more to serve them? And yet all this, my Lord, you would be thought to confess, should you neglect the Punishment of those Men, whom you accus'd of having betray'd all these valuable Blessings into the Hands of our Enemies.

But

But alas! Why am I labouring thus a Point ſo very evident, or who pretends to be of a different Sentiment from me? Is there any Great Man that ſeems averſe to ſuch a Deſign, or do any of them offer to ſkreen the vile Peace-makers? I hope there is none that does. I am ſure, notwithſtanding the malicious Inſinuations of your Adverſaries, that your Lordſhip is not in the leaſt this way inclin'd. And indeed, it would be ridiculous in any Man to imagine ſo, that will but conſider your Character and Behaviour.

Your Lordſhip began the World with openly declaring, even in the Tyrannous Reign of King *James*, againſt Court Oppreſſions, and have, for the Courſe of Six and Twenty Years ſince, continued firm, without ever wavering or trimming, to the Cauſe of Liberty.

'Tis hard, nay, 'tis barbarous and unjuſt, after this to ſuſpect a Great Man (whoſe Reputation is as tender as that of a Virgin) without ſome better Grounds, than a meer Rumour. And, my Lord, I can find nothing that more ſtrongly Impeaches the late Miniſtry, than your Con-

duct

duct during the ſhort time your Lordſhip has been at the Head of the Treaſury, of which I beg leave to mention but one Inſtance. My Lord *Ox*———*d* after concluding the Peace, had kept all the Seamen for Two Years together in Pay, whereas your Lordſhip has even already found means to Pay off all the poor Creatures, excepting only a few.

I ſhall ſay no more on this Subject, but that I wiſh, for the ſake of my Country, that thoſe who have ſpread theſe evil and groundleſs Reports of your Lordſhip, appear in the end to be as hearty in the Cauſe themſelves. We need not queſtion then, but the *Peace-makers* will anſwer for their Treaſons with their Heads, and will add one Example more to our *Engliſh* Hiſtory of Courtiers, who while they were contriving the Ruin of their Country, periſh'd themſelves, before they could bring their Projects to bear.

The Seizure of our late Plenipotentiary *Peace-maker's* Papers, the favourable Anſwer given to the Noble Addreſs of the Lieutenancy of the City of *London*, and moſt of all, the Proclamation for the calling a New Parliament, ſeem to promiſe the

the Impeachment of the late Miniſtry in a few Months. And here, my Lord, give me leave to quote to you the Paragraphs in the King's Proclamation, that give me theſe Glorious, theſe Comfortable Hopes.

" We cannot omit on this firſt occaſion
" of Summoning our Parliament (in Ju-
" ſtice to our ſelves, and that the Miſ-
" carriages of others may not be imputed
" to us, at a time when falſe Impreſſions
" may do the greateſt and moſt irreco-
" verable hurt, before they can be clear-
" ed up) to ſignifie to our whole King-
" dom, that we were much concern'd on
" our Acceſſion to the Crown, to find the
" Publick Affairs of our Kingdoms, under
" the greateſt Difficulties, as well in re-
" ſpect of our Trade and the interruption
" of our Navigation, as of the great Debts
" of the Nation, which we were ſur-
" priz'd to obſerve, had been very much
" encreas'd ſince the Concluſion of the
" laſt War. We do not therefore doubt,
" that if the enſuing Elections ſhall be
" made by our loving Subjects with that
" Safety and Freedom, which by Law
" they are entitl'd to, and we are firmly
" reſolv'd to maintain to them, they will

" ſend

" ſend up to Parliament the fitteſt Perſons
" to redreſs the preſent Diſorders, and to
" provide for the Peace and Happineſs of
" our Kingdoms, and the Eaſe of our Peo-
" ple for the future, and therein will have
" a particular regard to ſuch as ſhew'd a
" firmneſs to the Proteſtant Succeſſion,
" when it was moſt in Danger. We
" have therefore found it neceſſary, as
" well for the Cauſes aforeſaid, as for o-
" ther weighty Conſiderations concerning
" us and our Kingdom, to call a New
" Parliament: And we do declare, *&c.*"

Oh Noble Declaration! Worthy only of ſo Great, ſo Wiſe a King. From hence it is, my Lord, I flatter my ſelf with certain hopes of having the late Devourers of this Nation call'd to an Account. So that to all my other Arguments drawn either from the Baſeneſs of their Crimes, or the Inſolence of their Behaviour, or from the Security it would be to our preſent Eſtabliſhment, you may add this one more, that your own Conduct has aſſured us of no leſs.

And therefore I hope that honeſt *Engliſhman*, Mr. *Steele*, will pardon me if I borrow his Phraſe for once, and aſſure your

Lordſhip, that the *Britiſh Nation expect* the ſpeedy Impeachment of the late Miniſtry.

Nay, they *expect it* more than ever they did the *Demolition of* Dunkirk, as being of much greater Importance. The one deſtroys a Power that annoy'd our Merchant Ships, and by that means leſſen'd a great part of our Trade, but the other would deſtroy a Power that at once attempted to ruin all our Trade and Navigation too. They *expect it* more, becauſe the Demolition of *Dunkirk* (which is yet uneffected) we had no Aſſurance of but from Perſons of no Honour or Credit, but the Impeachment of thoſe Men, was promis'd us by ſuch as never had their Fidelity call'd in Queſtion.

In ſhort, *the* Britiſh *Nation expect* the late Miniſtry ſhould be Impeach'd, becauſe the Joy and Bleſſing of His Majeſty's Reign would be imperfect without it, and becauſe the greateſt Security he can give to his Proteſtant Subjects, of the Happineſs they may hope to enjoy under his Government, will be the beginning with an Exemplary Puniſhment of Oppreſſors, though they were ſuch, with a Sovereign Authority to back them.

But

But before I was in the leaſt aware of it, the Copiouſneſs of my Subject has run my Letter into a tedious Length, very unfit to wait upon a Man, whoſe Hours are employ'd in reforming thoſe Abuſes, which I am only able to exclaim againſt. I ſhall therefore add as few Words more as poſſible.

I find my ſelf oblig'd to intreat your Lordſhip, firſt to pardon the haſty Incorrectneſs, and then the Warmth with which the whole is written, and to be ſo favourable, as to impute it to the Raſh but Honeſt Zeal of a Young Man, who having commenc'd an Enemy to the late Miniſtry, even from their firſt Entrance into Power, cannot forbear purſuing them with his Reſentment even to their Grave, the only Place indeed where their Crimes can be forgotten. All I have to wiſh is, that I have brought ſuch Arguments for their Impeachment, as cannot be anſwer'd, and ſuch as I hope, are agreeable to your Lordſhip's noble Sentiments.

And now, my Lord, as at the Head of my Letter I have plac'd a Quotation out of Mr. *Cowley*'s Works, that ſeem'd to me en-

tirely applicable to the Circumſtances of our preſent Glorious Deliverance, ſo I beg leave to conclude with that Noble Apology which *Cicero* makes to *Brutus* for his Satyrical Declamations againſt *Mark Anthony* and *Lepidus*.

Dixi igitur Sententias in Antonium, *dixi in* Lepidum *ſeveras ; neque tam ulſciſcendi cauſa, quam ut et in preſens Sceleratos Cives timore ab impugnanda Patria deterrerem, & in poſterum documentum hoc ſtatuerem, ne quis talem amentiam vellet imitari.* Cic. Epiſt. ad Brutum.

And knowing that your Lordſhip is endowed with this *Roman* Spirit, I beg leave to ſubſcribe my ſelf with all Reſpect and Duty

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt obedient, moſt devoted

And moſt humble Servant

THOMAS BURNETT.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Poſt.

Postscript.

I Cannot close up this Letter, my Lord, without adding one short Word more, which is, that I hope neither the ill Rumours of open Enemies, nor the sinister designs of Self-interested Men, will hinder your Lordship from continuing to act in that brave Sphere, which you have hitherto shin'd in; By which you have justly acquired the Reputation of a Friend to your Country, and of a Patron to neglected Merit.

FINIS.

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